

'Political Assassination' Of Chicago Alderman Recalls Gangland Killings

EDITOR'S NOTE: The slaying of an alderman has put a spotlight on the machinery of political — and perhaps underworld — power in a great city. A UPI special reporting team including veteran Chicago crime reporter Robert T. Loughran, Fred Mohr and David Smothers, arrived at the 24th Ward headquarters of Benjamin (Duke) Lewis shortly after the Negro politician's bullet riddled body was discovered. The story of the slaying, its political overtones and the past violence of Chicago's political wars are detailed in the following dispatch.

A UPI Team Report
CHICAGO (UPI) — Police seeking the "Chinese execution" killers of Alderman Benjamin F. Lewis today followed a trail of politics, power and "policy."
The politics were bigtime. Lewis, 53, whose slim, mannequin body was found stretched on the floor of his headquarters Thursday, had won reelection to the City Council by an overwhelming majority only two days earlier.
His power was growing and there was talk that he aspired to Congress and to the throne of Rep. William Dawson as leader of Chicago's Negro Democrats. There was talk, too, that Lewis had made dangerous enemies in his battle to control the tough West Side 24th Ward.
"Policy," the nickel and dime

gambling racket which preys on Chicago's Negroes, was an unknown factor. But it could be the big one and it could mean that Lewis fell before the expert gun of an assassin from the ranks of the Chicago Crime Syndicate. It has happened in Chicago before.
A Lewis lieutenant, ward Democratic Vice President Curtis Foster, said "The hoodlum element was trying to come in with policy. He (Lewis) said 'Over my dead body.' They killed him for revenge."

Like Old Times
The Lewis killing was like the old times — much too much like the old times — and it raised fears that Chicago has not shed the ghost of Al Capone and his gangster shock troops.

The three automatic pistol bullets fired into the base of Lewis' skull were echoes of a bloody tradition of political vendetta, a tradition harking back to the days of Capone and the lethal '20s when the game of politics could be deadly in the 24th Ward and the neighboring "Bloody 20th."

Through the decades, Chicago politicians have been shot, knifed, bombed and kidnaped. Sometimes their slayings have touched off shock waves of reforms. But none of these victims had the power and political potential of Ben (Duke) Lewis.

A state representative called the slaying "political murder" and there was no keeping the murder out of politics. Chicago

Mayor Richard J. Daley, one of the most powerful individual Democrats in the nation, is up for reelection April 2 and his opponent, former State's Atty. Benjamin Adamowski is no man to pass up a vote-swinging issue.
Within hours after the discovery of Lewis' body, Adamowski issued a statement charging that the slaying was "another chapter in the sordid history of the Chicago Democratic machine. We are apparently at the beginning of an era of violence and bloodshed."

Orders Go Out
The mayor ordered his police superintendent Orlando W. Wilson to "apprehend and bring before the bar of justice the culprit who committed this dastardly crime." Orders went out to:

—Make an hour-by-hour check of every move Lewis made since Tuesday night, when he strode into Daley's Morrison Hotel headquarters in the Loop and jubilantly announced he had won reelection by a whopping vote of 12,179 to 888.

—Find whether the Crime Syndicate, hard pressed by federal and city police raids on policy wheels elsewhere in the city, was trying to force the racket into the 24th Ward.

—Discover whether the man who placed a mysterious telephone call to police shortly after the body was discovered was crank or killer.

At an hour when Lewis' slaying was not generally known in the city, the caller said "I got Lewis — I'll get Biggs next." A police guard was placed at the home of Robert Biggs, a Democrat who made an unsuccessful bid for alderman of the 29th Ward in the Tuesday election. Charles Chew, a Negro candidate for alderman involved in a runoff, said he got a threatening call and police established a guard around his house.

—Make sure Lewis didn't fear for his life. On his last night, he asked police Sgt. James Gilbert of the nearby Filmore Street Station to telephone him. It was reported Lewis told Gilbert in the 7:30 call "I'm all right." Then he

and canals. There are no fences but I haven't seen an animal on planted land nor anywhere he is not supposed to be. It seems as though the herders tell their stock where not to go and the animals comply. That is the result, anyway.

"The Afghan dogs are large, up to 90 pounds, if they are in good shape. They have massive heads and forequarters, with ears clipped off light. Their purpose is protection of livestock (not herding) from wolves, jackals, and men.

"Today is Friday or 'Jouma,' the Moslem sabbath which we use as a day of rest, and also to catch up on our correspondence."

"I mentioned that I was going to have snails in Paris. They weren't on the menu in the particular restaurant we visited, but I did have squid in Rome, which is a very good sea food. When served it appears to be on onions rings. It is somewhat tougher, however.

"Our only first class travel was from Rome to Beirut. The carrier was Air France and the plane was a two-engine jet, the Caravelle. The cocktails, filet mignon, brandies, cheeses, liquors, mints, etc., accompanied the view of the northeastern Mediterranean and southern Greece. It was a memorable flight."

Lakeview Man Writes Of Afghanistan Life

LAKEVIEW — Another interesting letter, dated Dec. 15 and received Jan. 7, has been received here from Tom Crawford who, with his wife, Beulah, is in Afghanistan as an irrigation adviser for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. He says:

"We are now settled in a mud brick home with concrete floors, plastered walls, and GI furniture. The electricity is not too dependable and the water is dependant on the electricity.

"Native beef and lamb are plentiful, but the bulk of our food travels by railroad and truck from Karachi, Pakistan, and takes several weeks from order to delivery. Beulah has become a real good bread maker using native flour, and we haven't received our first shipment of groceries as yet.

"The weather is dry and it has been down to 17 degrees for a few nights, but we take our jackets off in the afternoon. The winter wheat has been planted as well as the root crops in our garden, so things are continuing normally for Afghanistan.

"The nomadic groups and tribes have made their winter camps below the large canals on land that is not farmed. Their thousands of camels, sheep, goats and donkeys seem to be every place as we drive along the ditches

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GEORGE CHAKIRIS NUYEN DARREN
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SUNDAY

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LOVER COME BACK
Come September

THE ADAMS JACK DARRIE JACK KRUSCHEN
WALTER SLEZAK

Waterfront Boss Dies

NEW YORK (UPI) — Anthony (Tough Tony) Anastasio, 57, overlord of the Brooklyn waterfront, died early today of complications following a heart attack suffered two months ago.

Anastasio was an international vice president of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and business manager of ILA Local 1814.

Often arrested but never convicted, the swarthy dock boss was the brother of Umberto (Albert) Anastasio, reputed Czar of Murder, Inc. who was shot to death in a barber shop in Manhattan's Park Sheraton Hotel in 1957.

The brothers spelled the family name differently.

Of late Tough Tony's power on the Brooklyn docks, once unquestioned, had been under siege. Fellow dock bosses ousted him from the wage scale committee of the ILA, and his vice presidential position had been challenged.

Anastasio suffered a heart attack on Jan. 2, and after a stay of several weeks in Brooklyn's Long Island College Hospital, was discharged. But complications from the attack caused his death there early today.

Anastasio's rise through the tangled power web of the Brooklyn docks was steady. Though never convicted of the various crimes he was charged with — ranging from assault to murder — he inspired fear and respect in his associates.

Acquaintance said his temper could be fierce. But his home life was quiet. A widower, he lived with his daughter and son-in-law, Anthony Scotto, organizational director of Local 1814, in a middle-class neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Tony was one of six brothers in his family to come to this country from their native Italy. Three others remained in Europe. One of his brothers, the Rev. Salvatore Anastasio, now is pastor of a Roman Catholic Church in the Bronx.

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said suddenly "I'm sorry, I have to hang up now."

Facts Clear, Baffling
The facts in the case were clear and baffling and the scene was a white columned stone building which previously had been a bank and a mortuary.

Lewis, still glowing over his Tuesday victory, left his wife Ella and their red brick home on Filmore St. at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. He checked into his office, paid a brief visit to the Morrison Hotel Democratic headquarters, and then returned to his headquarters at 5.

The headquarters on drab West Roosevelt Road were new and imposing, covering most of the two floors of a Grecian-style building which had housed the Community State Bank and, later, a funeral home. Invitations were going to city hall that very day for the gala opening Saturday.

Lewis went to his freshly paneled, modernistic office on the second floor and closed the door with his name on it behind him. Building Manager James H. Smith heard the alderman's telephone ringing constantly, right up to the time Smith went home at 10 p.m.

At home, Mrs. Lewis wondered why her husband hadn't returned. He had never, she said, stayed out all night. She awakened at 4 a.m. and again at 8 a.m., but did not call police.

At 8:47 a.m., janitor Joseph Brown wondered why all the lights were on in Lewis' office, investigated, and found the boss of the 24th Ward spread on the floor beside his desk. Lewis' hands, locked in handcuffs of a type used by Navy MPs during World War II, were cradled over his head. A filter cigarette, burned down to the fingers, was between his fingers. The radio on a table beside him still was playing.

Murder Method Clear
The method of murder was clear. The killer had forced Lewis to don the handcuffs, then stepped up behind him as he sat and sent the bullets crashing into his skull. A green leather cushion from Lewis' chair had been used to muffle the shots. The modus operandi—bullets fired into the base of the skull—is known as "Chinese execution."

There were other professional touches. The killer had apparently entered through a back door by "popping" the lock and tumblers. A corridor and spiral staircase led to Lewis' door.

Robbery was out as a motive. There was no sign of struggle. Lewis' \$200 suit was undisturbed, the expensive watch was left on his wrist, the heavy ring on his finger, the \$36.25 in his wallet.

Coroner Andrew Toman estimated at first that Lewis had died at around 8 a.m. Police discounted the theory. They pointed out that the alderman's car was still parked where Lewis had left it at 5 o'clock the day before. There was a half inch of fresh snow on the hood.

Other Political Slayings
Who killed Ben Lewis was a question which may go down in Chicago history with the old political cry "Who killed McSwiggan?"

McSwiggan, known as the "hanging prosecutor" started the current era of Chicago political killings when he was machine gunned in front of a Cicero saloon in 1926.

Graham entered the hospital Thursday for examinations of "an acute undetermined infection."

Doctors said it will take 46 hours to run a complete series of tests, and three additional days of evaluation to determine if Graham can depart as scheduled to open his crusade in Manila March 11.

The evangelist had come to Hawaii to relax prior to starting his Asian crusade. He told UPI he felt he had overcome the effects of a lung ailment that has bothered him off and on for the past five years. But he admitted he had been running a fever for several days and was feeling weak.

Despite his weakened condition, Graham talked enthusiastically of the Asia tour which he said could be "one of the biggest crusades we have ever held anywhere."

But Heinz Rube, owner of a private zoo from which the panther escaped, said he and his employees would begin a search of their own.

Rube said the panther was normally afraid of people but could turn into a killer if cornered. He urged hunters to shoot the animal on sight, but offered a \$1,000 reward to anyone bringing it back alive.

He said the animal, valued at \$2,000, could forage for food and live indefinitely in the sloping foothills.

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START OF LONG DRIFT — DeVere Baker, 47, Redondo Beach, Calif., and his wife Nola, 44, start toward the raft Lehi V in a dinghy as an unidentified cameraman photographs them. Pulling the dinghy away from the beach is Donald McFarland of Torrance, Calif., a crew member. Lehi V sailed on the second leg of a global voyage.

Death Reprieve Sought For Two Irish Setters

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — "That's the end. Every dog has his day and so has every man; and the end is the same for both. We do like old Caesar and are put into the ground and have the earth shoveled over us."

Green Stamp War Opens
SALEM (UPI) — The perennial Green Stamp war formally began Thursday.

A leading stamp firm warned a proposed bill would "effectively stop the use of trading stamps in Oregon."

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Eugene Hulett, D-Eugene, would require stamp firms to issue stamps to any merchant who wants them. It also would require a stamp company to pay a \$5,000 annual license fee to any county in which the company does business.

John Howarth, district manager of the Sperry and Hutchinson Stamp Company, said the bill would not regulate, but in fact would end the use of stamps in the state.

Evangelist Gets Tests

HONOLULU (UPI) — Evangelist Billy Graham was undergoing tests at a local hospital today and it was feared he might have to postpone his forthcoming Asian mission.

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Weather Roundup

Temperatures during the 24 hours ending at 4 a.m. PST today.

High	Low
Astoria	52 44
Baker	50 31
Brookings	58 44
Medford	54 37
Newport	50 44
North Bend	54 43
Pendleton	59 41
Portland	54 42
Redmond	60 35
Salem	49 40
The Dalles	60 44
Chicago	27 17
Los Angeles	79 57
New York	36 27
San Francisco	66 54
Washington	48 34

Five-day weather outlook:
Western Oregon: Recurring rains. Temperatures below normal in Northwest Oregon and near normal in Southwest Oregon. Highs in 40's, lows in 30's.

Eastern Oregon: Near normal precipitation and temperatures, highs in 40's and lows in 20's and low 30's.

Northern California: Mostly fair with clouds north part.
Western Oregon: Partly cloudy; high Saturday 43-50, low tonight 28-33.

Eastern Oregon: Mostly fair; high Saturday 35-43, low tonight 22-32.
The Dalles and Hood River: Partly cloudy, few scattered showers; highs 46-52, lows 28-33; gorge west 15 to 25.

Bend, Baker and La Grande: Fair; highs 45-51, lows 24-30.

Reds Forced To Fly Long Supply Line

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Soviet TU114 airliners have been conducting a weekly drama in the skies over the North Atlantic to keep Communist supply lines open to Cuba.

Denied refueling rights or otherwise restricted by a half dozen countries, the Russians for two months have been forced to operate a difficult and expensive airline service 5,000 miles non-stop from Murmansk to Havana.

The TU114s, civilian counterparts of the Bear bomber and of the reconnaissance planes which have flown over U.S. fleets, take off once a week from Moscow and fly north to Murmansk to fuel up.

From Murmansk they fly only over international waters. They head out into the Barents Sea, skirt the northern bulge of Scandinavia, pass between Iceland and Greenland, pass Newfoundland and the New England coast and finally slip between Florida and the Bahamas into Cuba.

The TU114, a prop-jet, is said to have a range of up to 6,000 miles with maximum payload of 15 to 18 tons of cargo or 120 to 150 passengers. The payloads apparently are being reduced for extra fuel.

The planes are operated by Aeroflot, Russia's state airline. No one knows what the cargoes are, but if any strategic goods or military personnel are included, it could be highly embarrassing for the Russians and the Cubans to have to land in the United States or Canada.

Partisan Election Bill Proposed In California

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—A two-bill series designed to make county and municipal elections partisan was complete today.

Assemblyman Phillip Burton, D-San Francisco, introduced his well-advertised bill to allow partisan elections in cities of more than 100,000 population yesterday.

"I want to emphasize that this is permissive and not mandatory," said Burton. "It would develop young leadership for both parties."

But Burton was virtually all alone with his bill. Most members of the Democratic leadership of both chambers said publicly and privately that they could not support such a measure.

Earlier in the session Burton introduced a bill to allow county supervisors to be elected on partisan tickets—and announced at the time that he had a similar measure for local elections.

Republicans charged that such a measure smacked of political "bossism." Assemblyman John Veneman, R-Moody, said Gov. Edmund G. Brown, as attorney general in 1956, had ruled that the legislature could not constitutionally provide for such elections.

Assemblyman Jerome R. Waldie, D-Antioch, the Democratic floor leader, joined in to say that he would "strenuously" oppose efforts to make local and county offices partisan.

"This bill is designed to get Democrats elected in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego," Waldie said at the time. "But when we have the strength we have, why make the Democratic party stronger? It could lead to irresponsibility."

Richard Carpenter, executive officer and chief counsel of the League of California cities, also opposed the bill. He called it "the surest way to return California to the political bossism that prevailed in the state 60 years ago."

Burton leaped to the defense of his twin proposals.

"The same hue and cry was raised when the legislature first seriously attempted to abolish crossfiling," said Burton. "I expect healthy debates on the merits of this proposal."

Although he apparently was not willing to predict the 1963 legislature would pass his bill, Burton went this far: "I believe we will see the day when local elections in the metropolitan areas of the state will be partisan."

For the first time since the session began two months ago, one house scheduled a Friday session.

The Assembly was in recess but the Senate met.

Other action in the legislature: Labor—State Sen. John Holmdahl, D-Oakland, introduced legislation establishing a State Labor Relations Act.

Voting—Burton introduced a bill setting the voting age at 18 and said that most 18-year-olds are well versed on current affairs and should be allowed to express themselves at the polls.

Sessions—Freshman Assemblyman John Moreno, D-Santa Fe Springs, introduced a constitutional amendment to allow regular sessions of the legislature every two years. At present, there is a general session in odd-numbered years and a budget session in even-numbered years.

March Limp In Like Lion

By United Press International
March limped in like a frost-bitten lion today, dumping fresh snow across the center of the country and drenching the South with rain.

With spring only three weeks away, the mercury at Lone Rock, Wis., dipped to 16 degrees below zero and Spencer, Ind., reported 7 inches of new snow.

Shelbyville, Ind., had 6 inches and Dayton, Ohio, had 4.

Heavy snow warnings were issued for parts of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and the West Virginia Panhandle. Snow was expected to move into Southern New England and New York by nightfall.

Thunder and lightning accompanied rain squalls from Louisiana and Arkansas to Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky. Lufkin, Tex., and Pine Bluff, Ark., reported more than an inch of rainfall in six hours.

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